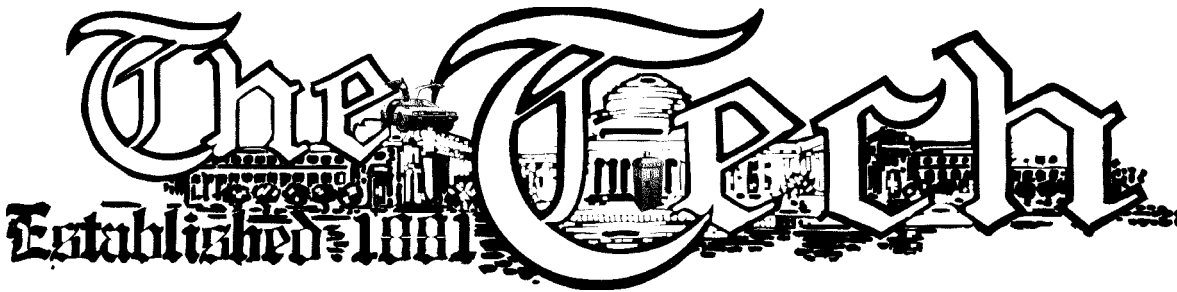


Inauguration Ceremony Today

MIT's
Oldest and Largest
Newspaper



The Weather
Today: Partly cloudy, 57°F (14°C)
Tonight: Cloudy, 42°F (6°C)
Tomorrow: Cloudy, rainy, 47°F (8°C)
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Volume 125, Number 25

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Friday, May 6, 2005

Extension to Student Center a Possibility

By **Kelley Rivoire**
NEWS EDITOR

According to some, the Student Center needs a face lift. Discussion is underway about a possible extension to the east side of the Student Center, facing Massachusetts Avenue.

The extension would include ample space for student groups and a “Do-IT-Zone,” with space for building and tinkering that would house the Hobby Shop and the Edgerton Center student shop.

The building would serve as the “non-academic gateway for MIT,” said Professor of Mechanical Engineering Alexander H. Slocum PhD ’85, who has led an effort to create preliminary designs for the proposed extension.

Following a presentation by

Slocum last Thursday, the Campus Activities Complex Board voted to endorse the idea of the changes, said Phillip J. Walsh, director of the CAC. The idea is long-term, Walsh said. “Right now, it’s a matter of getting ideas.”

Space for student groups a priority

The plan presented by Slocum would convert the basement of the new extension into the “Do-IT-Zone,” including the Hobby Shop (currently located in the basement of the Du Pont Athletic Gymnasium) and Edgerton Center student shop (currently located in the basement of Building 44), as well as other activities such as the solar car team, according to Slocum’s proposed extension.

[Student Center, Page 17](#)



CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

Christine M. Edwards '06 helps junior high school students make “slime” by pouring a scoop of borax into their plastic bags at the Cambridge Middle School Science Fair on Tuesday, May 3, held in the Johnson Athletic Center. Other MIT volunteers helped to judge the science fair and give tours of various parts of MIT’s campus.

GSC Looks Back on Year, Sets Goals

By **Beckett W. Sterner**
NEWS EDITOR

The Graduate Student Council handed off control to its new officers at a meeting on Wednesday, while taking time to evaluate the past year and set priorities for the next.

A primary success for the GSC and graduate students this year was MIT’s decision to subsidize the full cost of health insurance for single students, significantly easing the pressure on graduate cost of living.

Extending options for daytime child care is a possible new topic for advocacy mentioned at the meeting.

Two possibilities include developing a co-op in Westgate for volunteer parents and starting a rotation program where families alternate taking care of each other’s children.

Outgoing President Barun Singh said other GSC achievements included this year’s graduate student orientation, the largest ever; a survey on graduate student satisfaction with advising; and an “assessment of graduate cost of living that surpasses anything we’ve ever had before.”

The GSC is also currently in communication with Cambridge city officials regarding differing opinions on

the safety of the construction now in progress along Massachusetts Avenue.

Cambridge officials “certainly took notice” of a letter sent by the GSC, Singh said. He said the city was considering removing one lane of traffic near 77 Mass. Ave. to allow bicyclists greater safety.

The new officers are President Emily Slaby, Vice President Sylvain Bruni, Secretary Andrew “Zoz” G. Brooks, and Treasurer Oreoluwa A. Adeyemi. The outgoing officers are Barun Singh, Hector Hernandez, Lucy Wong, and Virgilio Villacorta, respectively.

Time Travelers Event Attracts News Media; Dr. Who Still Missing

By **Marissa Vogt**
NEWS EDITOR

It’s being advertised as a possible “Woodstock-like event that defines humanity forever.” It could solve

Feature one of science’s great unanswered questions, provide a cure for cancer, and solve global poverty. It’s going to be a party unlike any other, and it’s being held here at MIT.

The Time Traveler Convention planned for this Saturday night in the East Campus courtyard hopes to finally answer the question of whether time travel is possible. The idea, said organizer Amal K. Dorai G, is that one of the biggest arguments against time travel is that if it were possible, we would have seen time travelers already.

The solution? Plan a time traveler convention, publicize it in advance, and time travelers from the future will hear about the event

and attend. Because a variety of time travelers from many different eras can come, you only need to hold a time traveler convention once, Dorai said.

The convention will be held Saturday, May 7, 2005, from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. EDT. In the event that future time travelers are unfamiliar with MIT, Dorai’s Web site lists the coordinates of the EC courtyard, 42:21:36.025°N, 71:05:16.332°W. The convention’s Web site contains updated information and is available at <http://web.mit.edu/adorai/timetraveler/>.

Publicity has mixed results

Publicity is crucial to the event so that future time travelers will be aware of the convention and know to come on Saturday. The convention has already attracted the attention of the *Boston Herald*, *The Boston Phoenix*, *The New York*

[Time Travel, Page 18](#)



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

Rowena Mittal '05 (left) and Karen Verschooren '07 dance in “Something of Anguish” in the MIT Dance Troupe’s spring performance, entitled “Feet on the Floor.” The piece was choreographed by Irene E. Brisson '05 and set to the song “Nemo” by Nightwish. For more photos, see page 10.

Two MIT Professors Elected to NAS

Two MIT professors were among the 72 elected to the National Academy of Sciences on Tuesday. Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences Nancy Kanwisher ’80 and Professor of Biology David C. Page join 55 other MIT faculty as members of the prestigious group, which advises the federal government on science and technology.

Of the 72 new members, 19 are women, the highest number ever. This year’s election brings the NAS membership to 1936.

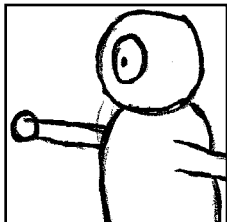
Eighteen foreign associates were also elected to the NAS on Tuesday, bringing the total number of foreign associates to 360.

—Kelley Rivoire



ARTS
‘Hitchhiker’
is an inaccurate, but fun movie.

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Comics

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NEWS

Tufts held a rally this week after an alleged racist attack on a student last weekend.

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WORLD & NATION

Merck Chief Executive Quits; Insider Steps Up

By Alex Berenson
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Raymond V. Gilmartin resigned Thursday as chairman and chief executive of Merck, ending a troubled decade-long term during which Merck lost its place as the world's pre-eminent drug maker and was forced into a drug recall that has clouded its future.

Merck, the third-largest American drug maker, named an insider, Richard T. Clark, 59, its head of manufacturing, as the new chief executive. Merck said the chairman's position would remain vacant for at least a year.

After a six-month search, Merck's inability to find someone to assume both of Gilmartin's titles highlights the deep problems it faces in his wake, including a dearth of new drugs and thousands of lawsuits over Vioxx, the painkiller that Merck stopped selling last year after studies linked the drug to heart attacks. The search was undertaken because Gilmartin originally planned to retire next March, when he will turn 65.

House Passes Emergency Spending Bill

By Eunice Moscoso
COX NEWS SERVICE WASHINGTON

The House overwhelmingly passed an \$82 billion emergency spending bill Thursday to pay for military operations and rebuilding efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as tsunami relief efforts in Asia.

The measure, passed 368 to 58, also includes provisions—decried by immigrant and refugee advocates—that would restrict illegal immigrants from getting driver's licenses, tighten U.S. asylum laws, and speed completion of a fence along the southwest border between the United States and Mexico.

The bill also includes a nearly tenfold increase in death benefits for survivors of troops killed in combat, money for more border patrol agents, and \$592 million for construction, security and maintenance of an American embassy in Iraq.

The Senate is expected to pass the bill next week and President Bush is expected to sign it into law.

Most of the money, nearly \$76 billion, will go toward the military operations, bringing the total amount spent on fighting primarily in Iraq and Afghanistan to about \$300 billion since 2001.

Fans Aren't Charged In Sheffield Incident

By Katie Zezima
THE NEW YORK TIMES BOSTON

Charges will not be filed against two Red Sox fans who interfered with Yankees right fielder Gary Sheffield at Fenway Park last month.

Mark J. Concannon, a first assistant clerk magistrate, ruled in a closed hearing at Boston Municipal Court on Thursday that there was not sufficient evidence to grant a criminal complaint filed by the Boston Police Department seeking to charge the fans, Christopher House and Matthew Donovan, both of Dorchester, Mass., with misdemeanor disorderly conduct.

A spokesman for the Boston police declined to comment.

During an April 14 game between the Red Sox and the Yankees, House reached over the short right-field wall as Sheffield was fielding a ball. It was unclear if House was reaching for the ball or for Sheffield, who said he was struck on the head. House denied hitting Sheffield.

After fielding the ball, Sheffield lunged toward but did not make contact with House as a security guard intervened. Donovan was said to have tossed a full beer toward the field during the confrontation.

Baseball did not discipline Sheffield for his role in the altercation.

Images May Show N. Korea Is Preparing for Nuclear Test

By David E. Sanger and William J. Broad
THE NEW YORK TIMES WASHINGTON

White House and Pentagon officials are closely monitoring a recent stream of satellite photographs of North Korea that appear to show rapid, extensive preparations for a nuclear weapons test, including the construction of a reviewing stand, according to U.S. and foreign officials who have been briefed on the imagery.

North Korea has never tested a nuclear weapon.

Bush administration officials, when asked Thursday about the burst of activity at a suspected test site in the northeastern part of the country, cautioned that satellites could not divine Korean leader Kim Jong Il's intentions, and said it was possible that he was putting on a show for American spy satellites. They said the North Koreans might be trying to put pressure on President Bush to offer an improved package of economic and diplomatic incentives to the

desperately poor country in exchange for curtailing its nuclear activities.

"The North Koreans have learned how to use irrationality as a bargaining tool," a senior U.S. official said Thursday evening. "We can't tell what they are doing."

Nonetheless, U.S. officials have been sufficiently alarmed that they have extensively briefed their Japanese and South Korean allies and warned them to be prepared for the political implications of a test.

On Thursday morning, Bush spoke at length about North Korea with President Hu Jintao of China, who has been his main interlocutor to Kim's government. The White House refused to say whether the two men had discussed the new evidence, focusing instead on what officials said was Bush's determination to get North Korea back to the negotiating table in six-nation talks.

American intelligence agencies have debated for years over the extent of the North's technical abilities, and whether it has successfully

turned its stockpile of nuclear fuel into warheads. That debate has become particularly fevered since Feb. 10, when the North publicly boasted that it had manufactured weapons.

The accounts of North Korea's activities have come from three U.S. officials who have reviewed either the imagery or the intelligence reports interpreting them. They were confirmed by two foreign officials who have been briefed by the Americans, but who cautioned that their countries had no independent way of interpreting the data.

Officials at one U.S. intelligence agency said they were unaware of the new activity.

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Russia Expresses Disapproval Over Bush's Visits to Neighbors

By Elisabeth Bumiller
THE NEW YORK TIMES WASHINGTON

Shortly after the White House announced that President Bush would expand his trip to Moscow on Monday with stops to promote democracy in the former Soviet republics of Latvia and Georgia, the Russian foreign minister took the unusual step of sending a letter of protest to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Americans who have seen the letter describe it as an audacious objection by Foreign Minister Sergey V. Lavrov to the itinerary of the president of the United States. Rice promptly shot back, in effect, that Bush could visit whatever countries he wished.

"Rice doesn't scare worth a damn," said a senior Bush administration official who insisted on anonymity because he did not want to be identified as taunting Moscow.

But the letter, the talk of Russia experts here, sets the tone for a difficult presidential trip that has to balance attending a celebration in Red Square of the 60th anniversary of Nazi Germany's defeat without endorsing the subsequent Soviet occupation of Eastern Europe. As one administration official put it, "If Bush gets out of this, he'll be Houdini."

The quarreling has only intensified as Bush's scheduled departure on Friday morning has neared and as administration officials have acknowledged that the president's stops in Latvia and Georgia were deliberately planned to send a message that he does not condone Russian repression, either in the aftermath of World War II or now.

For their part, the Russians are angry at what they see as the expansion of U.S. influence on countries on their border.

Bush tried to strike a balance in interviews with news organizations

from the region at the White House on Thursday, when he first told a group of newspaper reporters that "a respectful relationship with a leader of a great country like Russia is important to maintain."

But later he told the Lithuanian state television network that he had reminded President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia when they last met in February that the leaders of the Baltic countries—Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania—"don't view the end of World War II as a great moment of celebration," because of their annexation by the Soviet Union, and that "hopefully" he would cooperate with them, because it was "in Russia's interests to have free countries and democracies on her border."

On Wednesday the president of a Moscow research organization, Vyacheslav A. Nikonov, told the Interfax news agency that Bush's side trips to Latvia and Georgia were "a kind of slap in Russia's face."

WEATHER

Blame Baroclinicity

By Roberto Rondanelli
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

The synoptic map shows a low pressure system off the coast of the Carolinas, whereas most of New England is influenced by the fair and relatively cool weather of a strong high pressure system. As the trough advances eastward, it will contribute to the further deepening of the surface low (some people might say that the low and the upper-level trough are in the right phase for baroclinic development), as well as helping the low to move northward with the mean flow. As you might guess, this weekend will be excellent for all kinds of indoor activities.

All numerical prediction models agree on the existence of the low, although not all of them agree on its position and intensity. Since the center of the low pressure will most likely be located off the New England coast, we can expect significant cold advection and therefore a colder rainfall event than the one of last weekend. Precipitation will begin sometime Saturday morning and will continue on and off for about 24–36 hours. Total precipitation can amount to a couple of inches at the end of the event.

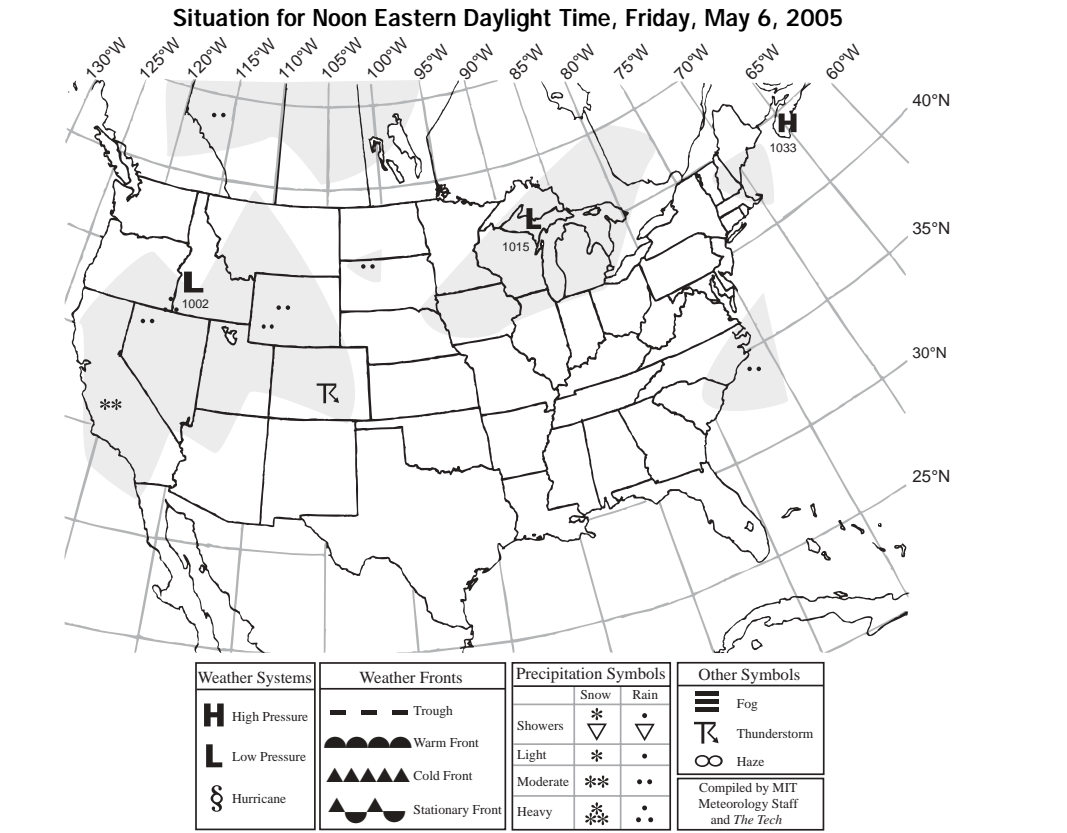
Weekend Outlook:

Today: Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy towards the evening. High 57°F (14°C)

Tonight: Cloudy. Low 42°F (6°C)

Saturday: Cloudy. Rainfall developing during the morning and early afternoon, heavy at times. High 47°F (8°C)

Sunday: Rain decreasing in quantity and likeliness during the day. Low 44°F (7°C) High 55°F (13°C)



Insurgents Continue Bombings, Killing at Least 22 in Baghdad

By Sabrina Tavernise
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ
Insurgents staged a series of attacks across Baghdad on Thursday, including a suicide attack in which the bomber blew himself up in a crowd of job applicants outside an Iraqi army base. At least 22 people were killed, officials said.

The attacks were the latest in a series of bombings that began a week ago with the announcement of Iraq’s new cabinet. The new Shiite-led government is still negotiating with Sunni Arabs over unfilled cabinet posts a week after it was formally sworn in, and insurgents have seized on the indecision to mount increasingly deadly attacks.

At 7:30 a.m., a man with grenades strapped to his body walked into a crowd of about 40 job applicants in front of a large Iraqi army base in central Baghdad. A soldier spotted the man and tried to shoot him, but the safety stuck on his gun and the man was able to blow himself up, according to Lt.

Ahmed Mustafa, an Iraqi officer at the base who saw the incident.

In all, the blast at the base killed at least 13 people, an Interior Ministry official said. Among them was the soldier who tried to stop the bomber, Mustafa said, adding that it was the seventh such attack on the base, the main location for army recruiting in the city.

“We are used to it,” he said, standing at the site of the explosion, a concrete corridor between the base and a busy highway. By the afternoon, soldiers had sprinkled sand over puddles of blood. Strips of clothing and debris covered the branches of a tree near the site. A string of orange plastic prayer beads hung from a hook on a safety barrier nearby. A shoe lay on the concrete.

The bomber looked to be in his late teens or early 20s, Mustafa said. He said he knew that because soldiers had found the bomber’s head intact.

The attack was similar to a strike carried out the day before

outside a police station in the northern city of Erbil, where 60 people were killed. Iraqi army soldiers are considered traitors by the insurgents, and frequently are targets in bomb attacks.

In the city of Mosul, also in the north, a car bomb killed four policemen, according to Iraqi police sources cited by The Associated Press.

Political wrangling continued on Thursday, with Shiite and Sunni leaders debating over candidates for the post of defense minister. Sunni Arabs have complained that the Shiites have blocked their nominees, while Shiites say they will not accept anyone who had been a member of Saddam Hussein’s Baath Party.

On Thursday, Laith Kubba, a senior aide to Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, said the Sunnis had put forward two candidates for the post, and that once a third is agreed upon, al-Jaafari will then pick a minister from that list of three.

Kansas Likely to Require Evolution Debate Be Discussed in Classrooms

By Jodi Wilgoren
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TOPEKA, KAN.
Six years after Kansas ignited a national debate over the teaching of evolution, the state is at it again, poised to push through new science standards this summer requiring that Darwin’s theory be challenged in the classroom.

In the first of three day-long hearings being dubbed here as a direct descendant to the 1925 Scopes Monkey Trial, a parade of PhDs testified Thursday about the flaws they see in mainstream science’s explanation of the origins of life. In was one part biology lesson, one part political theater, the highest-profile stage yet for the emerging movement known as intelligent design, which posits that life’s complexity cannot be explained without a supernatural creator.

Darwin’s defenders boycotted the hearings, which were called by the State Board of Education’s conservative majority. But their lawyer aggressively cross-examined the other side’s experts, pushing them to acknowledge that nothing in the current standards

prevents discussion of challenges to evolution, and peppering them with queries both profound and personal.

“Can you tell us, sir, how old you believe the Earth is?” the lawyer, Pedro Irigonegaray, asked William S. Harris, a chemist who helped author the proposed changes to the state standards.

“I don’t know,” Harris replied. “I think it’s probably really old.”

If the board adopts the new standards, as expected, in June, Kansas would join Ohio, which took a similar step in 2002, in mandating students be taught that there is a controversy over evolution. Legislators in Alabama and Georgia have introduced bills this season to allow teachers to challenge Darwin in class, and the battle over evolution is simmering on the local level in 20 states.

While the proposed new standards for Kansas do not specifically mention intelligent design — and many of their supporters prefer to avoid any discussion of it — critics contend they would open the door not just for those teachings, but to creationism, which holds to the Genesis account of

God as the architect of the universe.

For Kansas, the debate is deja vu: the last time the state standards were under review, in 1999, conservatives on the school board ignored their expert panel and deleted virtually any reference to evolution, only to be ousted in the next election.

But over the next few years anti-evolution forces quietly regained the seats. And now, the board’s 6-4 conservative majority plans to embrace 20 suggestions promoted by advocates of intelligent design and are using this week’s showcase to help persuade the public. “I was hoping these hearings would help me have some good hard evidence that I could repeat,” Connie Morris, an anti-evolution board member, said in thanking one witness.

Sighing in her seat was Cheryl Shepherd-Adams, a physics teacher who took an unpaid day off from Hays High School to attend the hearings. “Kansas has been through this before,” she said. “I’m really tired of going to conferences and being laughed at because I’m from Kansas.”

General Motors and Ford Investment Grade Ratings Downgraded to Junk

By Danny Hakim
THE NEW YORK TIMES

DETROIT
General Motors and Ford Motor Co. lost their investment grade ratings on Thursday, pushing two of corporate America’s biggest borrowers into the ranks of junk bonds and rattling the financial markets with the message that the remaining two domestically owned automakers have sunk to their lowest point yet.

The downgrade by Standard & Poor’s, the credit agency, reflected the rising pessimism about the kinds of vehicles GM and Ford have placed at the center of their company strategies, as well as worries that these two automakers may not emerge any time soon from their financial troubles.

S&P said it was particularly concerned about declining sales of the large sport utility vehicles that Ford and GM depend on for profits, particularly as Japanese automakers step up their interest in the pickup truck market and push GM and Ford even further into a corner.

The downgrade reduces the number of ways the automakers can raise money and could make it more expensive for them to borrow in the future. But for now they are likely to use other ways of financing their operations besides issuing bonds. It also suggests, according to many financial experts, that the companies’ pension funds pose a greater risk of failure than generally acknowledged.

But both companies have sizable stashes of cash on hand, and other companies, including Chrysler (now part of DaimlerChrysler), have been downgraded to junk bond status in the past before staging comebacks.

Borrowing at junk bond prices, as big, heavily indebted startups in risky fields like telecommunications often successfully have, requires paying interest rates 7 to 8 percent-age points, sometimes even more, above the rate of ultra-safe government bonds.

Still, the move is not expected to harm the companies’ abilities to offer bargain leases and low-inter-

est loans to auto buyers.

On the New York stock exchange, GM shares fell to \$30.86, down \$1.94, or 5.91 percent. Ford shares fell to \$9.70, down \$0.46, or 4.53 percent.

The shares of GM, in some ways, were spared a potentially worse fate, as S&P’s move came a day after Kirk Kerkorian, the multi-billionaire casino operator and financier, declared an offer to spend \$868 million to raise his stake in GM to nearly 9 percent of the company. The events of the last two days make GM highly vulnerable to forces both inside the company and outside in the marketplace.

Alone, either GM or Ford would have been the largest corporate debt issuer ever cut to junk bond status by one of the three major debt ratings firms. Together, the two companies have more than \$450 billion in debt. Both have been increasing their reliance on alternatives to issuing bonds and are expected to continue to do so. They should have little trouble raising funds, at least in the short term.

Reversing Trend, Earth’s Surface Becomes Brighter

By Kenneth Chang
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Reversing a decades-long trend toward “global dimming,” the Earth’s surface has become brighter since 1990, scientists are reporting Friday.

The brightening means that more sunlight — and thus more heat — is reaching the ground. That could partly explain the record-high global temperatures reported in the late 1990s, and it could accelerate the warming trend in the future.

“We see the dimming is no longer there,” said Dr. Martin Wild, a climatologist at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich and the lead author of one of three papers analyzing sunlight that appear in Friday’s issue of the journal Science. “If anything, there is a brightening.”

Some scientists have reported that from 1960 to 1990, the amount of sunshine reaching the ground dropped at a rate of 2 to 3 percent per decade.

The new papers also call attention to a major gap in the understanding of climate. Scientists do not exactly know what caused the dimming and brightening or how these changes affect the rest of the climate system.

The Earth reflects about 30 percent of the incoming sunlight back into space. Slight changes in the reflectivity, possibly caused by changes in cloud cover and air pollution, can have as much impact on the climate as greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide accumulating in the atmosphere.

Wary U.S. Pledges to Help Bring Liberia’s Ex-Chief to Justice

By David Stout
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON
The administration took a cautious stance on Thursday on the deposed Liberian leader Charles Taylor, pledging to help bring him to justice over war crimes but refusing to say whether President Bush would push to have him expelled from Nigeria, where he has been sheltered.

Bush met Thursday with Nigeria’s president, Olusegun Obasanjo, and has been under pressure from Republicans to prod him into sending Taylor to be tried in war crimes in the Special Court for Sierra Leone, which is supported by the United Nations. That tribunal has indicted Taylor on 17 counts of crimes against humanity, including murder and enslavement, in connection with his support for rebels in Sierra Leone, Liberia’s neighbor.

Bush’s chief spokesman, Scott McClellan, declined to say before the meeting whether Bush would raise the subject of Taylor with the Nigerian president. And Obasanjo, addressing reporters at the White House afterward, spoke generally of his hope that some accord could be reached on Taylor.

“Nobody should, of course, condone any crime that anybody has committed, no matter how highly placed,” Obasanjo said, indicating that he and Bush had discussed the issue.

Conservatives Fail to Topple Canada’s Liberal Government

By Clifford Krauss
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TORONTO
The Conservative Party staged a surprise move to topple Prime Minister Paul Martin’s government on Thursday and to call an immediate election, but the parliamentary maneuver failed when the speaker of the House of Commons, from Martin’s Liberal Party, ruled it out of order.

The Conservatives attacked as a federal commission heard new testimony about accusations that Liberal leaders had rigged competitions for government advertising to favor their allies and to attract kickbacks to party coffers in the late 1990s.

The growing scandal has become an overwhelming distraction for the Liberal government, virtually halting legislative action. It involves a government program aimed at counteracting separatist forces in Quebec by publicizing federal involvement in cultural and sports programs in that French-speaking province

A former senior government bureaucrat testified Wednesday that he understood that Martin, while finance minister in the Cabinet of former Prime Minister Jean Chretien, had bent rules to guarantee that a Toronto advertising agency would not lose a lucrative contract after it was sold to a foreign conglomerate.

Martin denied the allegation on the floor of Parliament on Thursday, but the opposition tried to draw him directly into the scandal as an important player for the first time.

Feds Probe Exiting AIG CEO’s Stock Dealings

By Jenny Anderson and Kurt Eichenwald
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK
Federal prosecutors in Manhattan have opened an investigation into whether Maurice R. Greenberg, the former chairman and chief executive of the insurance giant American International Group, orchestrated an effort to manipulate the company’s stock price in his final weeks as chief, people officially briefed on the inquiry said Thursday.

The investigation was prompted by an executive with the company’s trading group, who told the company late last week that he had talked with Greenberg about the company’s stock price in February, at a time when the stock had begun to fall sharply. People who have heard a recording of the conversations say Greenberg can be heard instructing the trader to buy shares of AIG. Such purchases may violate federal securities law.

The conversations between the trader and Greenberg were captured on a recording system used by the trading division, the people briefed on the inquiry said. The recording of those conversations were reviewed by the company and its lawyers. Afterward, the recording was turned over to prosecutors with the U.S. attorney’s office in Manhattan and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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“Mop My Floors, Harvest My Food, and Fund My Retirement”

Ken Nesmith

Sometimes when crafting public policy, it’s easy to forget the implications for the worst off in society. For instance, under the current social security system, the weakest and most vulnerable in society wind up funding the retirement of the nation’s healthy, stable, and elite classes. With reform, we could establish a system that empowers everyone in society to build assets for themselves and for their families, ensuring a more equitable and just future.

Let’s examine why the current system is so harmful. Right now, when you work, the government takes 12.4 percent of the money you make to pay for the social security program. But the government doesn’t set this aside in an account for you or even set it aside in account to pay retirees generally. They just spend it, leaving a promise to pay it back later. (This may strike you as nonsensical, absurd, deceptive, or backward, but it’s true.) When you retire, the government starts paying you, on a scale linked to the average of 30 years of your wages. By participating (not that it’s a choice) in the social security program, you’re hoping that you’ll live past age 65 and that the government will have enough money to pay your benefits once you reach that age. In a few decades, as the ratio of old people to young people increases, the government will find it ever harder — and eventually impossible — to make the promised payments. Benefits will be cut.

Retirement payments are calculated so that if your wages have been relatively low, you’ll get a slightly better return from your social security payments than higher-wage earners; payments will replace about 60 percent of your salary, rather than the less-than-half they replace for most workers. But that assumes that you’ll actually collect the benefits. Many of the poor will not.

Why not? For blacks, who are on average poorer than nonblacks, one in three will get no benefit at all, because they will die before starting to collect benefits, wrote Alphonso Jackson, secretary of Housing and Urban Development, in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Social security taxes paid to that point are lost to the government, subsidizing the retirement of the healthy. Black Americans of recent African and West Indian heritage tend to live longer, more stable lives than black Americans descended from slaves, so they’re more likely to collect retirement benefits. But even those blacks who live to retirement die, on average, two years before white people, and hence collect two fewer years of benefits than generally healthier, wealthier whites, according to Paul Krugman.

One in three smokers, a vulnerable demographic which tends to be marginalized in mainstream society, die before retirement. Their tax payments and failure to collect the associated benefits are a major source of solvency for the entitlement system, saving the government about \$30 billion a year, according to Kip Viscusi, a Harvard economist. The poor are also more likely to be obese than the rich, and here they create a similar phenomenon by dying before they collect payments.

Illegal immigrants are another important source of support for the current system. According to a recent *New York Times* article, illegal immigrants pay about \$6 to \$7 billion in Social Security taxes annually, a number that continues to grow. Of course, they never collect benefits. The immigrants, often born into some of the most wretched lives imaginable and slaving over thankless, labor-intensive jobs, pay billions of dollars annually to subsidize those with the health and wealth to live to retirement.

The Statue of Liberty invites the poor, the tired, and the huddled masses to America. Perhaps we should add a note to let them know that they’ll be funding retirement for the nonminorities, the healthy, and the energetic. The current system is structured such that those in power in society are helped by the hard work and shortened lives of minorities, immigrants, the sick, and anyone else who pays taxes and then dies before getting anything back.

Of course, that’s not the only problem with the current system. It’s also structured so that it pays out much more money than it takes in. Calculating expected payments and income infinitely into the future tells us that

we’d have to pay \$10 trillion dollars today to make the system solvent for the future, a number approximately equivalent to our GDP. (Some people prefer to only calculate 50 or 75 years into the future; however, we then account for all the payments people make in those 75 years, but not all the money they’re owed as soon as they retire. It’s like using a credit card for a month and forgetting that you must pay it off: you’ll seem to be doing great, having spent lots of money without actually paying for anything, but when the bill comes, you’re in trouble. Even doing the incorrect calculation, we’re well over \$2 trillion short.)

On any analysis, the failure of the present system is so forcefully apparent, so beyond dispute, that there really isn’t a debate about social security among the economically literate. They (yes, there are some liberals among them) know that the current system is doomed; no spinning and twisting of the facts, no forceful reshaping of the discourse, no Nobel Laureate’s testimony, no changing the terms of the debate will change that. We’ve accumulated a debt of \$10 trillion, and we need a way to pay it. We also need a new way to structure our retirement system, since this one dug us into \$10 trillion of debt, which most agree is bad public policy. Paying the debt is a question of efficient public finance. Opponents of social security reform propose to do it by cutting benefits and raising taxes. Each of these measures further hurts the weak groups mentioned.

How should we structure our retirement system? Some opponents of Social Security reform defend the current system because it pays poor people who are lucky enough to live to retirement a slightly larger percentage of their wages than it pays to those who aren’t poor. (Never mind that a system with personal accounts, like Chile’s, replaces about 90 percent of a poor individual’s wages, rather than our 60 percent.) I’m sure some opponents of reform are honestly con-

fused about the economics, but MIT Economics Professor Jonathan Gruber, a former Clinton administration official and an avowed liberal, identifies this welfare effect as the sole reason that many economically-literate liberals defend the current system. They consider this miniscule redistribution very important to the well-being of society, but, according to Gruber, they’re not confident that the redistribution on its own would be tolerated politically — hence their defense of the current system. Imagine if we forced the whole nation to use food stamps because we wanted to be sure that a few poor people received food stamps, instead of just giving food stamps to the poor and letting other people figure things out for themselves. That’s what we’re doing with our retirement system. Ironically, conservatives are often criticized for trying to trick the public into supporting con-

servative causes, but here we have a confessed case of the opposite.

One way to structure our retirement system would be to let people keep the money they make and decide how much to save for

retirement, but since no one really considers that an option, we can look at another alternative. If the Social Security taxes people paid were put into personal accounts, workers could build wealth and assets to fund their retirements, or if they died before retirement, to pass on to their families and children so that their descendants could improve their chances of crafting a better life. They could save for the future instead of subsidizing retirement for the middle and upper classes. They could build wealth for themselves and their loved ones. Even if it’s not a lot, it would be a start for people who often have nearly nothing. Instead, we have a system where a weak man’s death is a strong man’s gain, and where the most vulnerable in society are sacrificed for the benefit of the powerful. Its comprehensive defiance of financial reality aside, it is a truly perverse system. Support for it is neither intellectually nor morally defensible.

[Workers] could save for the future instead of subsidizing retirement for the middle and upper classes

Rights or Privileges?

Ruth Miller

Discussions sometimes evoke strong emotions in people. If the impression is made that a speaker advocates the removal of freedoms, rights, property (or any of a slew of emotionally-charged topics), the rest of the argument is written off as an obstruction of justice, and every further detail only invokes more passionate, rather than rational, opposition.

One recent response-generating column that has run in *The Tech* is “Rights vs. Privileges” [Nick Baldasaro, April 26]. The author portrays many government programs to be privileges rather than rights, argues this differentiation, and then asserts that these newly redefined “privileges” are not guarantees, but are often taken for granted.

Not surprisingly, telling people that they have don’t have a right, but rather a “privilege,” doesn’t make one popular. It almost harkens back to being told to finish your supper because there are starving people in other

parts of the world. No one likes being told they’re ungrateful, especially when they think that such “privileges” are allowed to be taken for granted. After bringing about such a reaction in an audience, regardless of what else the writer does, he often is still not be taken seriously. Less grandiose conclusions are certainly ignored.

Rather than making emotional reactions under the auspices of defending liberal ideals, it’s worth taking a minute to examine the discussion itself. In the example article mentioned, the words “rights” and “privileges” are thrown around a lot. The author defines “privileges” to be those derived from government spending (health care, social security, and education), civil liberties (abortion), and life itself (draft), and states that there are no such things as “rights.”

I’m inclined to agree with him. Now that I’ve lost your attention, I’ll continue for my own amusement.

<http://www.dictionary.com> defines a “privilege” as a “special advantage, immunity, per-

mission, right, or benefit granted to or enjoyed by an individual, class, or caste.” This seems difficult to dispute. It defines a “right” to be “a just or legal claim or title.” These seem to be two different concepts, even if “privilege” is also given to be a synonym of “right.”

Where do rights come from? Colloquialisms such as “God-given right” seem to allude that rights exist naturally. We have rights because we are human. It easily follows that if a right is “God-given,” how can a government give it to us?

What kinds of rights are “God-given?” Without government, in an anarchy for example, everyone has infinite rights. I have a right to your “property,” and you have a right to mine. Property itself is impossible to create and maintain, because taking something for yourself impedes on the rights of others. This is clearly not desirable and probably one of the reasons why governments were formed in the first place.

It is the responsibility of a government to literally take away the rights of its constituency. In their place, the government gives back some rights in the form of privileges.

What’s the difference? A privilege is not guaranteed. The electric chair, prison, and fines would not exist if the “rights” of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness were 100

percent guaranteed. A government can decide how many such privileges to give its people and who to give them to. A government can tax, issue the death penalty, or require everyone to purchase car insurance — all revocations of privileges. A government can also create public schools, give basic health insurance, or grant pardons to death row inmates — all bestowments of privileges.

The word “privilege” need not incur such wrath. In a liberal city, it may be disdainful to be associated with privilege, but as Americans, that’s what we have. Generations past have worked hard to make our society one of privilege. It’s the choice of our generation to choose which privileges go and which ones stay.

Critics of Baldasaro, and others, aren’t entirely wrong for reacting harshly to the notion of obstructions of rights, liberties, etc. Dialogue, especially the constant testing of ideas and opinions, is what made many of these privileges available to us today. It is important, though, to bear in mind that good argument involves more than emotion.

If a point can be made without appeals to emotion, but with concise and rational logic, then future generations of Americans will be able to take for granted tomorrow new privileges that we are fighting for today.

Check one:

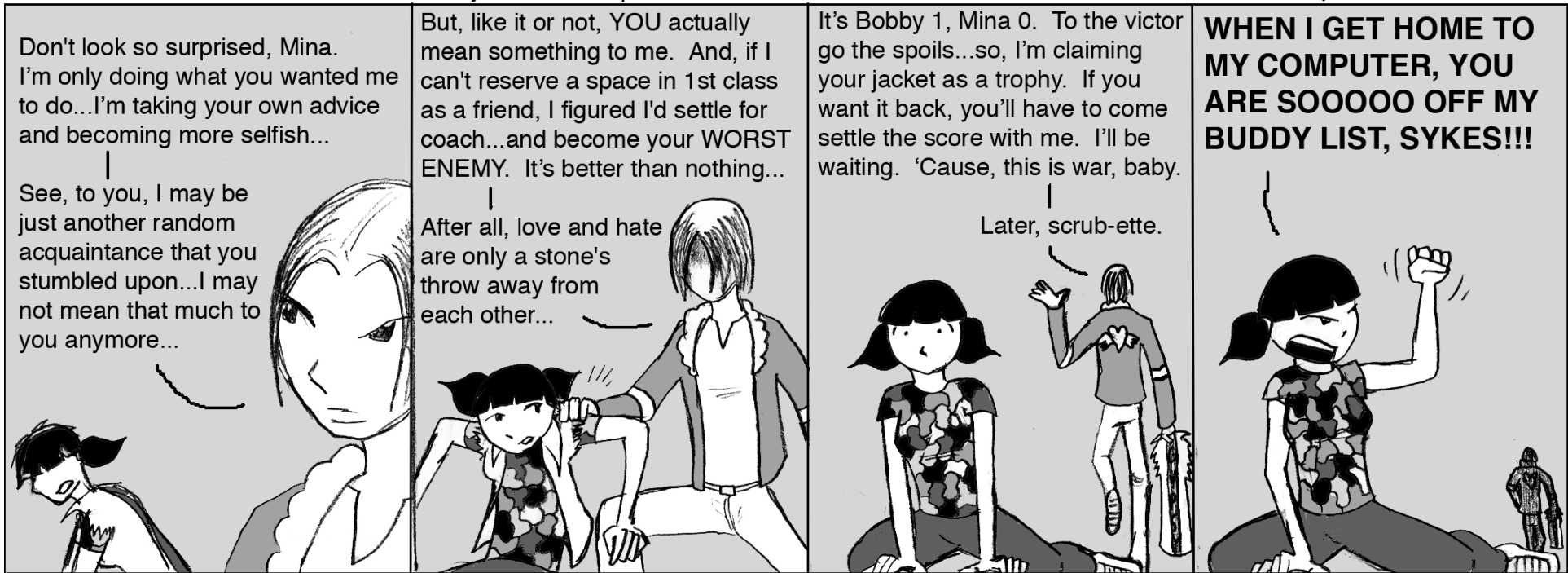
- ☐ Stick it to the Man
- ☐ Apply gingerly to the non-gender-specific Authority Figure

Write Opinion for *The Tech*
opinion@tt.mit.edu

Trio

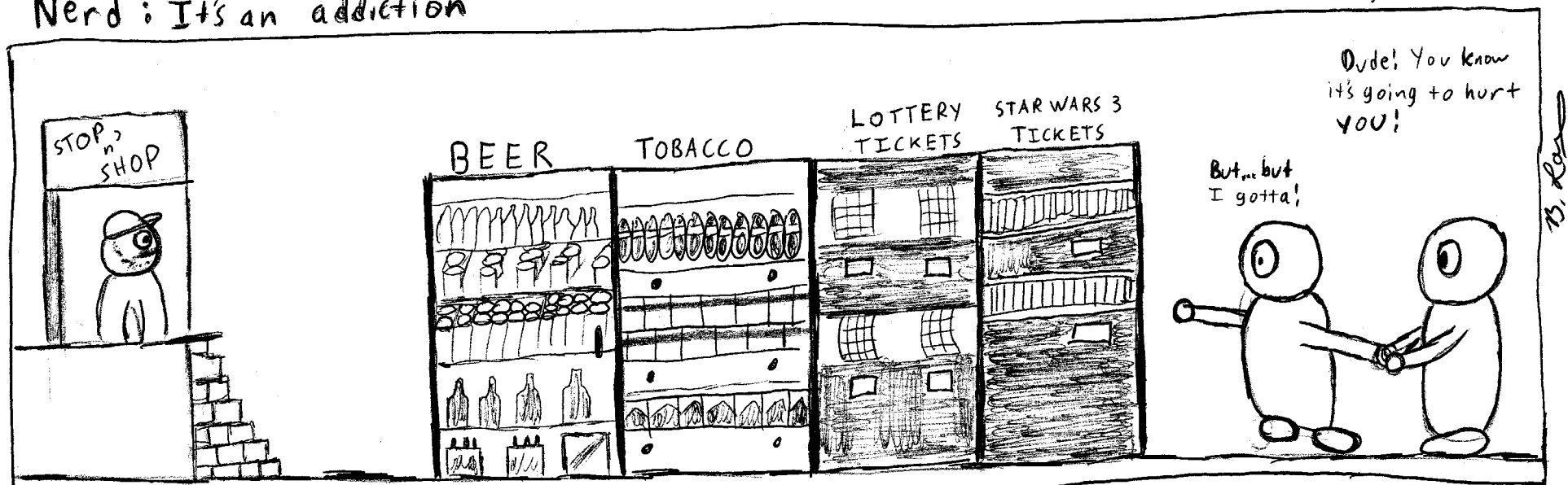
See last year's TRIO episodes: ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE

by Emezie Okorafor



Nerd : It's an addiction

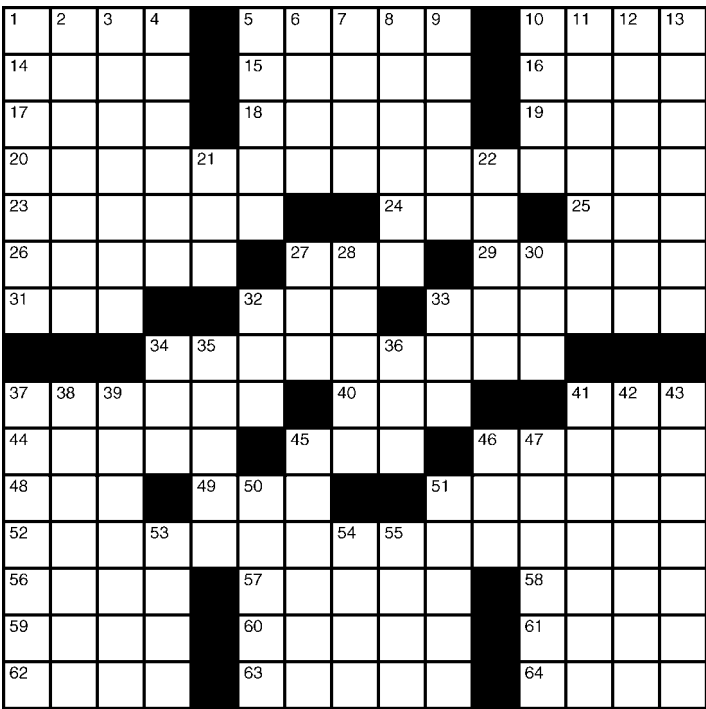
by Brian Loux



Surgeon General's Warning: Studies show that all big budget sci-fi since Terminator 2 has sucked ass.

KRT Crossword

Solution, page 17



- ACROSS**

 - 1 ___ and there
 - 5 Rover's restraint
 - 10 Composer Alban
 - 14 Surf sound
 - 15 Durkheim or Zola
 - 16 Ogler
 - 17 Soap additive
 - 18 Che's compatriot
 - 19 Brightest star in Lyra
 - 20 Start of quote
 - 23 Derrick component
 - 24 San Diego
- attraction

 - 25 Unrefined mineral
 - 26 Risk a citation
 - 27 Clouds' milieu
 - 29 Electoral districts
 - 31 Back-and-forth curve
 - 32 Letters before an alias
 - 33 Command
 - 34 Source of quote, maybe
 - 37 Endeavored
 - 40 NATO member
 - 41 Back in a boat
- 44 Sports venue
 - 45 PC key
 - 46 Toyota model
 - 48 Seventh tones
 - 49 Balderdash!
 - 51 Annie, for one
 - 52 End of quote
 - 56 Emerald land
 - 57 Skin cream
 - 58 Man or Anglesey
 - 59 Church section
 - 60 Host
 - 61 Carpe ___!
 - 62 Iditarod entry
 - 63 Is a bookworm
- DOWN**

 - 1 Gallivant
 - 2 Banking delays?
 - 3 French stars
 - 4 Gauge pointer
 - 5 Grove of baseball
 - 6 Abu Dhabi ruler
 - 7 General assistant
 - 8 Squalid
 - 9 First word in meetings
 - 10 Group of girls
 - 11 Visual blight
- 64 Corn servings

Splatform

by James Biggs



BIGGS 2-05

web.mit.edu/jbiggs/www/

- 12 Best wishes
 - 13 Superlatively ashen
 - 21 Homer's neighbor
 - 22 Downgrade
 - 27 Schuss
 - 28 Capital of Afghanistan
 - 30 I've got it!
- 32 Long spell
 - 33 Bikini top
 - 34 Distant
 - 35 Egg-producing organ
 - 36 Body shop's \$ quote
 - 37 Glossy fabrics
 - 38 Insignificant
- 39 Reticence
 - 41 Loss of language ability
 - 42 More slight
 - 43 Two-seaters
 - 45 Receiving callers
 - 46 Lanka lead-in
 - 47 Optimist's viewpoint
- 50 Animal in Rotterdam?
 - 51 Made-up monsters
 - 53 Bassoon requirement
 - 54 People of the Andes
 - 55 Requirement

DEVIANTS FROM THE NORM

by A.K. Turza

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE COMPILED A SANDNICH.

grumble WHAT GOOD ARE CLASSES?

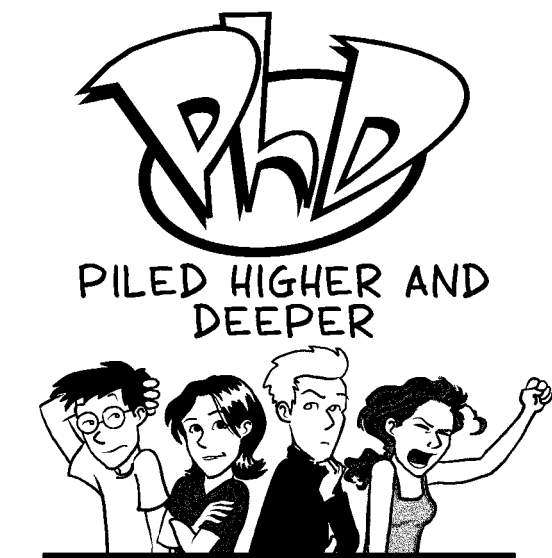
WELL, THEY MAKE PROGRAMMING EASIER...

JUST ADMIT IT AND EMBRALE YOUR INNER COURSE 6.

NOT COURSE 6, NO REALLY!

[023] THE OTHER 72%

2005 © A.K.TURZA



FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

Dilbert®

by Scott Adams

Bonus Crossword

Solution, page 14

ACROSS

1 Conspiracy group

6 Placid

10 Ms. Gardner and others

14 Small antelope

15 Locality

16 Teamster's rig

17 Boxing-like exercise

18 Tenant's expense

19 Burl on a tree

20 1972 Oscar winner and his role

23 Ms. Bombeck

24 Gary of "Air Force One"

25 Kickback cash

29 Forensic sampling

30 Writer Wister

31 Tableland

34 Hotel employees

39 1960 Oscar winner and his role

42 Kay the band leader

43 Aleutian island

44 Adolescent

45 Part of m.p.g.

47 Listless and weak

49 Dined in a restaurant

53 Son of Leah

55 1982 Oscar winner and his role

60 Romance

lang.

61 Where Polo went

62 Frogs' kin

64 Track event

65 Dune material

66 Saginaw Bay's lake

67 Swarming bugs

68 Harbor craft

69 Incantation

DOWN

1 Collapsible bed

2 Part of U.A.E.

3 Coffin support

4 Eban of Israel

5 A Barrymore

6 Ricochet

7 Betel palm

8 Host after Carson

9 ___ of honor

10 Questioned

11 Poisonous secretion

12 Iowa commune

13 Temptress

21 Fluid ounce

22 Andean beast

25 "54-40 or fight"

26 Not at home

27 Desires

28 As soon as

29 Zip about

32 Etc.'s cousin

33 Confirmed

35 Pot sweetener

36 News piece

37 Three in Berlin

38 Harmony,

briefly

40 Giant of myth

41 Pear-shaped fruit

46 After all this time

48 11.11 percentages

49 Director Kurosawa

50 Powerful person

51 Make law

52 Leers at

53 Telling fibs

54 Holy smokes!

56 Jacob's sibling

57 Fasten, as buttons

58 Tortoise's rival

59 False god

63 NBC classic

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MIT \$50K

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

COMPETITION

Monday, May 9th, 2005
7:00 pm
Kresge Auditorium
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

\$50K Final Awards Ceremony

“Unleashing Potential Through Collaboration”

OPENING SPEAKER:



Susan Hockfield
16th President of MIT

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:



David Edwards
Gordon McKay Professor of the Practice of
Biomedical Engineering at Harvard University
♦ Scientific Co-founder of AIR/Alkermes,
Pulmatrix, & MEND

*Introduction by Tom Leighton,
co-founder of Akamai, 1998 Finalist*

Come meet the MIT \$50K 2005 Finalists!

Creating tomorrow's leading firms
<http://50K.mit.edu>



ARTS

FILM REVIEW ★★★

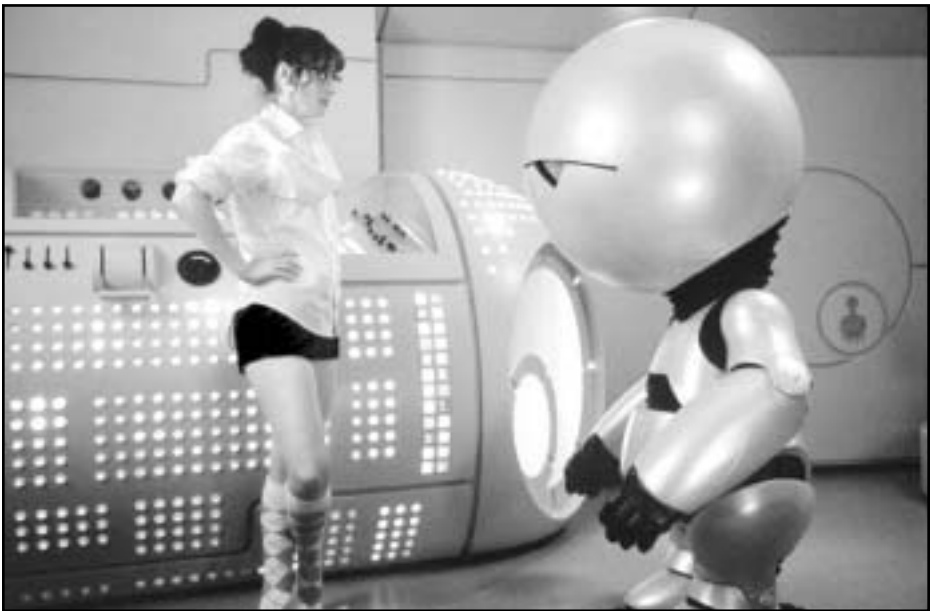
Meeting the Ravenous Bugblatter Beast of Traal

“Hitchhiker’s Guide” Film a Wild, Inaccurate Ride

By Nivair H. Gabriel
STAFF WRITER
The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy
Directed by Garth Jennings
Written by Douglas Adams and Karey Kirkpatrick
Starring Martin Freeman, Mos Def, Sam Rockwell, and Zooey Deschanel
Rated PG

Imagine “The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy” without British accents, irritating women, badly-spliced spaceships, or page numbers. Feel free to retain the depressed robot and the towel, however. Add some stuff that vaguely resembles Douglas Adams material — but not quite — and what you have left is a cinematic Snickers bar, a chocolate-coated mishmash of all the most famous bits of the funniest science fiction novel ever written. Sure, it’s hard to transfer the entirety of the book — especially the irresistible randomness — to film, and director Garth Jennings seems well aware of that. For those who are interested in an illustrated version of the Hitchhiker’s Guide, he offers plenty of goodies; what shines through the most is his dedication to the spirit of Douglas Adams’s creation and his respect for the whimsy that cracked up the world. My copy of this DVD will sit comfortably next to the BBC miniseries, and I don’t expect any fights to arise. Before you expect the impossible: yes, there is a romance subplot involving Arthur and Trillian. No, John Malkovich does not belong. And the story actually begins with a *house*, not a man as the movie seems to think. Decide whether you can stomach all that right now, and if you can’t, you’re missing a treat. For starters, Zooey Deschanel as Trillian

plays an intelligent, well-developed character who is charming to watch; her one emotional scene lends the romance subplot all of its credibility. Writers Douglas Adams (who worked on the movie before his death in 2001) and Karey Kirkpatrick blended the book characters Trillian and Fenchurch to come up with a sweet, slightly nuts girl who seems perfect for Arthur. She provides the motivation that the main character of a film needs, which may bother diehard fans since Arthur had none — but the endearing nature of Deschanel’s Trillian should conquer those doubts. It’s lucky that John Malkovich is barely in the movie, because the most apathetic of fans will surely have doubts about him. He appears only as the extension of a joke (which then makes it not quite so funny) and then introduces a plot that is never resolved. Furthermore, he undermines the character of Zaphod Beeblebrox as a really hoopy frood who never gets rattled and makes him just, well, uncool. This is not how we like our Zaphod. Ford Prefect, Zaphod’s planetmate and sort-of cousin, seems similarly dulled; in this film, he lacks the cheery unconcern of a party animal lurking beneath the surface. Mos Def replaces this quality with his own characteristic elegance and impenetrable irony, which is an unfamiliar interpretation but perhaps not all wrong. Sam Rockwell’s Zaphod actually follows suit: in scenes without John Malkovich, Rockwell shows a mastery of the outrageous confidence that belongs only to Zaphod and steals a few priceless moments. Bill Nighy above all has the best handle on his character, even in a cast where the major players seem to know exactly what they are doing — except for Martin Freeman, who as the eternally confused Arthur Dent makes excellent



BUENA VISTA PICTURES

A rumped Trillian (Zooey Deschanel) deals with Marvin, the paranoid android (voiced by Alan Rickman). use of cluelessness. Nighy seems equally suited to playing the burnt-out rock star in “Love Actually” as he is to playing an eccentric and talented fjord designer on Magrathea, and even before I heard his familiar snort-laugh, I knew he would be perfect. He doesn’t disappoint. Finally, the Guide is a sophisticated little e-book, and it’s got colored organization and detailed illustrations to boot. I dearly missed the image of Poet Master Grunthos’s major intestine throttling his brain, but I don’t feel too cheated. The modernization of the whole affair involved some lively new music which strangely fit — especially the dolphins’ brilliantly-choreographed goodbye serenade, which begins the film. Magrathea took my breath away, the Vogons were wonderfully deformed, and the Heart of Gold’s Infinite Improbability Drive caused the CG experts to have no small amount of fun. Though Marvin’s size varied in an uncomfortable way, the rest of Hitchhik-

er’s Guide was quite polished, and it was a joy to behold it all. Lovers of the BBC miniseries especially will, as I did, find plenty of excitement to compensate for any losses they mourn. I enjoyed myself so much while watching that my notes stopped and my excited gasps began (much to the chagrin of the man next to me), and that alone should be a strong enticement. The best mark of the movie was that it had me laughing, and regardless of its faults, I left the theater in delight. Those who haven’t read the books will want to, as the movie glosses over the explanation of aspects of the Guide that Jennings assumes you know (and rightly so). Those who have read the books, however, will experience both new and old hilarity. Douglas Adams’s original “trilogy” and the radio scripts that followed are the original decadent chocolate cake, and this effects-packed rendition is a caramel-filled candy bar. You can take your pick, but I recommend both.

THEATER REVIEW

Hearts A-Tangle in the Tower of London

Despite Flaws, Gilbert and Sullivan Players Give a Beautiful Production

By Monica Byrne
STAFF WRITER
Yeomen of the Guard
MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players
Produced by Rob Morrison ’96
Directed by Garry Zacheiss ’00
April 29–May 1, May 5–8

At the beginning of the Gilbert and Sullivan Players’ dress rehearsal of the operetta “Yeomen of the Guard,” I felt very peaceful. Amid a lovely, deep blue star field, a message surfaced: Please Turn Off Your Cell Phones and Pagers. The well-greased orchestra swelled and ebbed as the night turned to dawn, and dawn turned to day. A morning scene opened in Elizabethan England, complete with washer women and crimson-clad guardsmen. Phoebe (Dawn Perlner ’01) sang the opening solo, sighing “Ah, me!” in her robust, clarion warble. From the beginning, I was deeply impressed with the quality of musical performances. Even the minor solos were exquisitely performed in strong, professional voices. The orchestra hit a few sour notes near the beginning but soon found their groove. The set was an impressive ménage of London Tower, stone stairs, and doorways providing a dozen points of entry for the actors. The costumes were outstanding, from the earth-toned garb of common folk to the shiny stripes of noblemen. Lighting ranged from hellish red tones to gentle violet, perfectly complementing every scene’s mood. I was less impressed with the acting. In every play I’ve seen that employs esoteric speech, like Shakespeare or this Victorian operetta, there is inevitably a gulf between those who truly inhabit the language and those who merely pantomime. Half of the performances were delivered with feet rooted to the floor, unmoving, necks craned, and voices strained with false emotion. The first several scenes felt rather like a series of still pho-

tographs. However, the performances that followed improved, and with them, the entire production rose to hit its stride. When Jack Point (Jonathan Ichikawa) and Elsie Maynard (Colleen Dever) appeared on stage as two wandering ribbon-decked jesters, the entire play’s energy rose to meet them. Ichikawa danced and pranced around the stage with an ineffable scalawag charm. Though he sometimes overacted, I appreciated the zeal. Dever infused her songs with real emotion, singing in a shivery, silky soprano. She hit eye-popping notes with surgical precision. The plot wound knots around itself, a pleasing tangle of unrequited love, mistaken identities, and necessary deception. Wilfred Shadbolt (Andrew Sweet) played the boorish yet endearing Assistant Tormentor, slated to execute the dashing Colonel Fairfax, who’s been wrongly accused of sorcery. Phoebe and her father, who admire the retired soldier, mourn his sentence. Wilfred loves Phoebe, Phoebe loves Fairfax, and Fairfax is at least in love with Phoebe’s ample bosom. But the traveling performer Elsie is promised to the condemned Fairfax in order to preserve his estate from his conniving cousin. Her performing partner, Jack, is truly in love with Elsie. His face is a mask of mirth, crumbling visibly throughout the play. Sometimes I wished the actors would take the risk of overdoing it instead of underdoing it. There seemed to be some sense of restraint, a hesitance to truly embrace the play with all its joy and tragedy. Nevertheless, the ensemble shone most brightly when singing together as a harmony-rich vocal armada, everyone on gleeful wenches to dour-faced guards. The cavils I’ve mentioned are like stray hairs in an otherwise perfect ponytail — expected and perfectly tolerable. More than that, this production was thoroughly professional, exhibiting deep talent and true passion despite the time it took to get started. Do yourself a favor and see it this weekend.

TV REVIEW

TV Viewing Guy

The Scoop on ‘Alias,’ ‘Robot Chicken,’ DVD Extortion

By Akshay Patil
SENIOR EDITOR

Ass-kicking rubbish I hate to say it, but “Alias” (ABC, Wednesday at 9 p.m.) is starting to make me stupid. I know this is blasphemy for those of you who’ve stuck with the show through its four seasons, but there are only so many things that can go wrong with the world, and “Alias” has pretty much run out. A few weeks ago, they had an episode where there was a lens that boosts lasers by a factor of 10,000. Why was this dangerous? Because this could allegedly allow terrorists to use a CD player to slice a tank in half. I mean, come on. Lots of television shows bend the possibilities of technology to make things interesting, but that’s just Retarded. The revelation of a second Mr. Sloane was cool, but then the writers pulled an all-too-common “Alias” move and just totally dropped the story line without any reasoning. Are we supposed to believe that all these various enemies sit around going “You know, Jennifer Garner has enough on her hands this week, I’ll just lay low for a while until it’s my turn to cause mischief?” You remember Sark? Where did he and Anna Espinosa go? I’m willing to swallow my incredulity for the sake of entertainment, but they’ve just been asking too much of me recently.

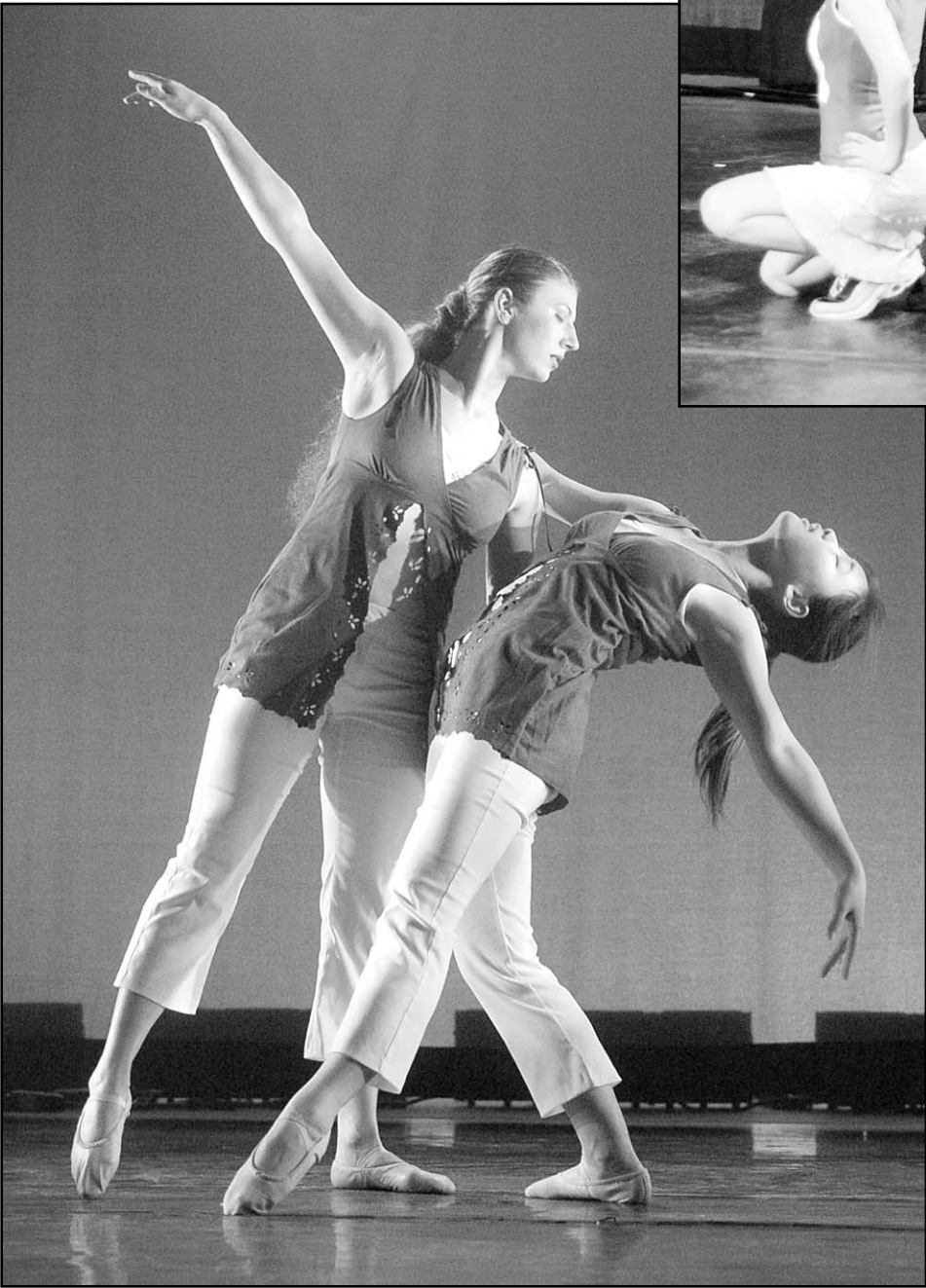
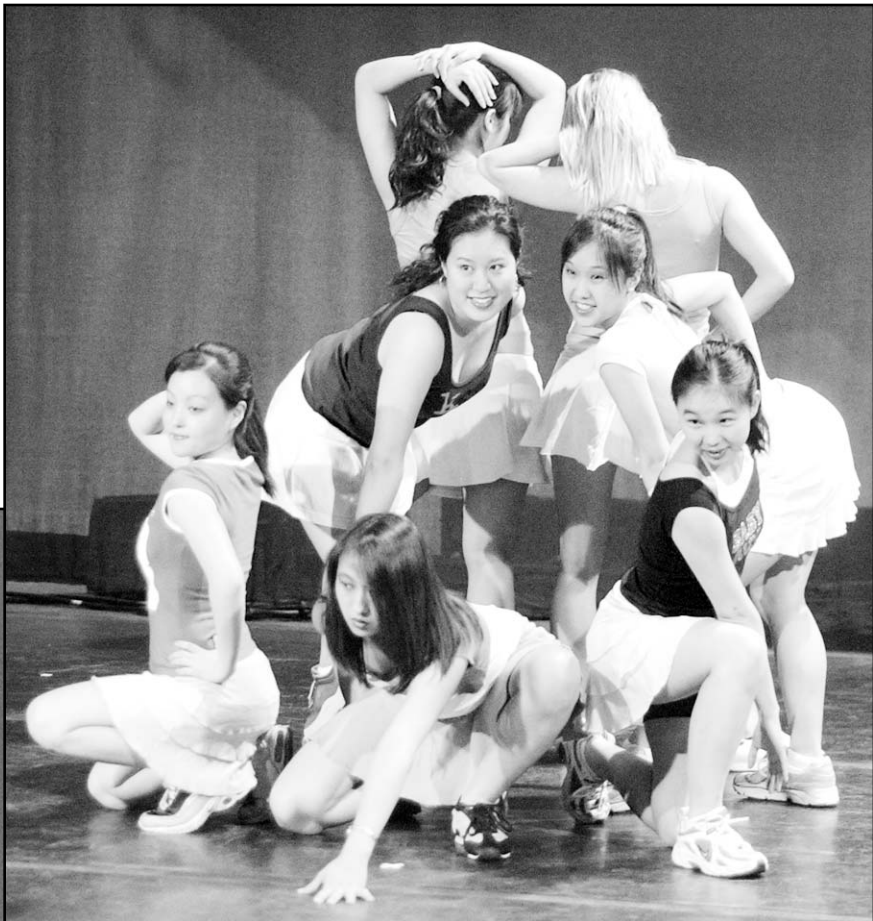
It’s Alive! For 15 minutes on Sunday nights (11:30 p.m.), craziness takes over the Cartoon Network in the form of an action figure stop animation show called “Robot Chicken.” The first few episodes were absolutely hilarious, but the show tapered off into only marginal funniness afterwards. For those who stopped watching, I’m happy to report the show is back to hilarity and worth returning to. The real world but with comic superheroes? A “Kill Bill” spoof entitled “Kill Bunny?” It’d be hilarious even

without the glorified Barbie dolls. **You’re Fired** It looks like the U.S. import of “The Office” won’t be making it to season two after a six-episode run this season. I actually liked the show — Steve Carell did a quality job playing the cluelessly sketchy manager with an American twist, but I feel like fans of the BBC version watched the show with a “No American show could ever capture the kick-assedness of the British version” mentality. That’s sad. I’ll be the first to queue up in the “Coupling U.S. sucked soooooo bad” line, but “The Office” was, in my opinion, pretty good. I actually agreed with a number of the changes made when making the American version and thought it served the show well, but perhaps we were wrong since the show’s ratings fell pretty far down the toilet after a rather respectable premiere. Or maybe American audiences are just not as sardonic as humor lovers across the pond. I guess the rule of thumb is that game shows and reality shows translate well, but with comedy, too much is lost with the change of accent.

My Unasked Two Cents Why the hell do TV series DVDs cost so much? If a movie that costs \$175 million dollars to make sells for \$20 on DVD, explain why one season of a television show that costs a couple million dollars to make sells for \$40+? It’s not the cost of the DVDs, I assure you that. It seems to be the mentality that people are getting “more” when they buy 10–20 hours of television instead of 2–3 hours of a movie. I think that’s bukkiss. We watch a movie with higher expectations for acting, cinematography, special effects, etc. As far as I’m concerned, there’s no reason why a television show season should cost so much to buy on DVD; from a personal perspective, if shows were \$20/season, I’d be buying far more with much less hesitation.



Dance Troupe's Feet on the Floor



The MIT Dance Troupe's spring performance was held at the MIT Student Center. Clockwise from top left: Monica Hixon '02 (left, of Ohio State) performs in "Breath." Rowena Mittal '05 (left, in air) and August Verschooren '07 (right, on ground) in a performance of "Scream" by Janet and Jessica B. So '05 (left) strikes a pose with Amelia L. Laughton '06, set to "Only Love Can Save Me" by 1TYM. (left to right) Jacob D. Bourgeois '05, Fionnuala '06 and set to "It's Tearin' Up" by 1TYM. TianLun Yu '05 poses in the opening dance of The Fresh Prince of Bel Air. Irene E. Brisson '05 holds Mandy M. Yeung '05 (center photo) Munhee Sohn G (front row, left), Kathryn D. Wong '06 (middle row, left), Kathryn D. Wong '06 (back row, right) perform in "K-bomb, K-bomb" by 1TYM.



entitled “Feet on the Floor,” open now, runs through this Sunday in Kresge Little The-
rsity) and Franklyn F. Lau ’08 dance together in a piece called “Don’t Hold Your
K. Dibbell ’07 (right, in air) leap over Webster Heffern ’05 (left, on ground) and Karen
entitled “Something of Anguish,” choreographed by Irene E. Brisson ’05.
’07 dance together in “Make Me Wanna Seam,” choreographed by Lin and Chu. The
el Jackson.
raham Hsu ’05 looks on in “Juicy,” a dance choreographed by Heather A. Levites ’08
by Ashanti.
Sierra ’05, and Jonathan D. Fu ’08 dance in “Celebrity,” choreographed by Amelia L.
art,” “Bye Bye Bye,” “It’s Gonna Be Me,” and “Pop” by *NSYNC.
elcome to Bel Air” choreographed by Anna Kuperstein ’05 and set to the theme song
5 in a dance incorporating ballet moves.
, Connie Lin ’08 (front row, middle), Daphne D. Hao ’07 (front row, right), Jennifer L.
(middle row, right), Jennifer J. Liang ’06 (back row, left), and Ashley A. Shurick ’06
e set to the Korean pop songs “Mut Jeng Ee Shin Sah” by YG Family and “Hot Ttu



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

Wind Ensemble Premieres Performs World Premiere



The MIT Wind Ensemble gave the world premiere performance of “Gleams from the Bosom of Darkness” last Friday evening.

(above) Maithilee Kunda '05 plays the flute.

(right) Guest artist Julee Avallone plays the contra-bass clarinet.

Photography by Yun Wu



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Anna E. Massie '07 (left) and Cynthia D. Walker '07 help prepare for Greek Weekend by drawing sorority insignia on the sidewalk in front of the Johnson Athletic Center on Friday, April 29.

OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

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OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

Lecture Series Committee projection director Oliver E. Kosut G works on the projectors in the 26-100 projection booth this past Monday, May 2. LSC has installed new soundtrack readers to accommodate the film industry's shift from silver sound tracks to cyan dye-based soundtracks.

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Hate Crimes at Tufts, Harvard Investigated; Tufts Rally Draws 150

By John Ellement
THE BOSTON GLOBE
MEDFORD, MA

Speaker after speaker used different words, but all had a common theme: Hatred hurts, hatred kills, and hatred will not be tolerated at Tufts University, where an Arab-American student alleges that three men attacked him over the weekend, calling him a terrorist and other names as they beat him unconscious.

At a midafternoon rally in front of Tisch Library Tuesday, more than 150 people, including students and professors, denounced the alleged attack on Riyadh Mohammed outside Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity early Saturday as another act of racism on a member of the Tufts community.

This academic year, swastikas have been splashed on doors, racial epithets against black women were posted on campus, and a gay student was assaulted by another Tufts student, students said.

Other area campuses also have been affected. In Cambridge, city and Harvard University police are investigating a report from a gay Harvard student who said two men beat him.

In an article published Monday in *The Harvard Crimson*, Galo Garcia III wrote about the attack he says he suffered over the weekend in Cambridge. According to Garcia, he had his arm around a male friend as they passed the Lampoon building on their way to a Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transsexual, and Supporters Alliance dance in Adams Hall, a campus dining area. A car with two men slowed down and called them a derogatory word used against gays, he wrote.

Garcia said he told them they "should not make such remarks here" and stepped toward the car. The men then exited the vehicle, slammed his head against a wall, and punched him repeatedly, he wrote. "I have cuts, bruises, and lumps on my chest, my back is sore, and a large area of my head is swollen and throbbing painfully," he wrote.

A Cambridge police spokesman, Sergeant James A. DeFrancesco,

said the department and Harvard police are investigating a weekend assault, but declined to comment further. Criminal charges have not been filed in either the Harvard or the Tufts cases, authorities said yesterday.

At Tufts, Mohammed, the president of the Arab Student Association, could not be reached for comment.

Thomas Daniel McDermott, the group's incoming president, said Mohammed told him he was verbally assaulted while he and his girlfriend walked past the Curtis Street fraternity adjacent to the Tufts campus. Mohammed said the men overheard him saying he did not like the fraternity. Someone responded by calling him an Indian, and when he told them he was an Arab, someone called him a terrorist, McDermott said.

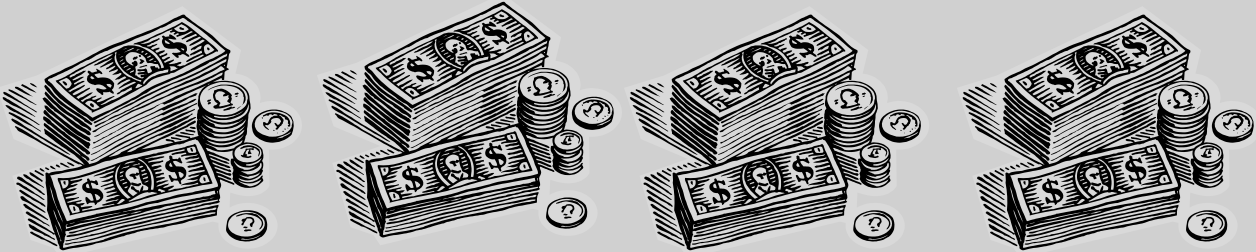
Mohammed then took his girlfriend home, but returned to the fraternity, where a second verbal exchange escalated into physical violence. Mohammed told McDermott he slipped into unconsciousness and awoke to find fraternity members trying to bring him inside the building while urging him not to call police. Mohammed told McDermott his attackers also called him a "Saddam supporter" as they beat him.

Patrick Willis, president of the fraternity, said members are cooperating with the investigation and declined to comment further. He would not confirm a report that a freshman member of the fraternity has been kicked out because of his alleged role during the struggle with Mohammad.

At the rally yesterday, one student said the incident should not be forgotten. "It doesn't matter who threw the first punch," said Caitlin McDonnell, a senior.

Bruce Reitman, Tufts dean of students, said the inquiry is ongoing and no conclusions have been reached. "We've had these infrequently," he said. "But we've had them, and there is no desire to sweep it under the carpet."

Globe correspondent Glenn Yoder contributed to this report.



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Solution to
Bonus Crossword

from page 7

C	A	B	A	L	C	A	L	M	A	V	A	S
O	R	I	B	I	A	R	E	A	S	E	M	I
T	A	E	B	O	R	E	N	T	K	N	A	R
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FRIENDS
DON'T LET
FRIENDS
DRIVE
DRUNK.

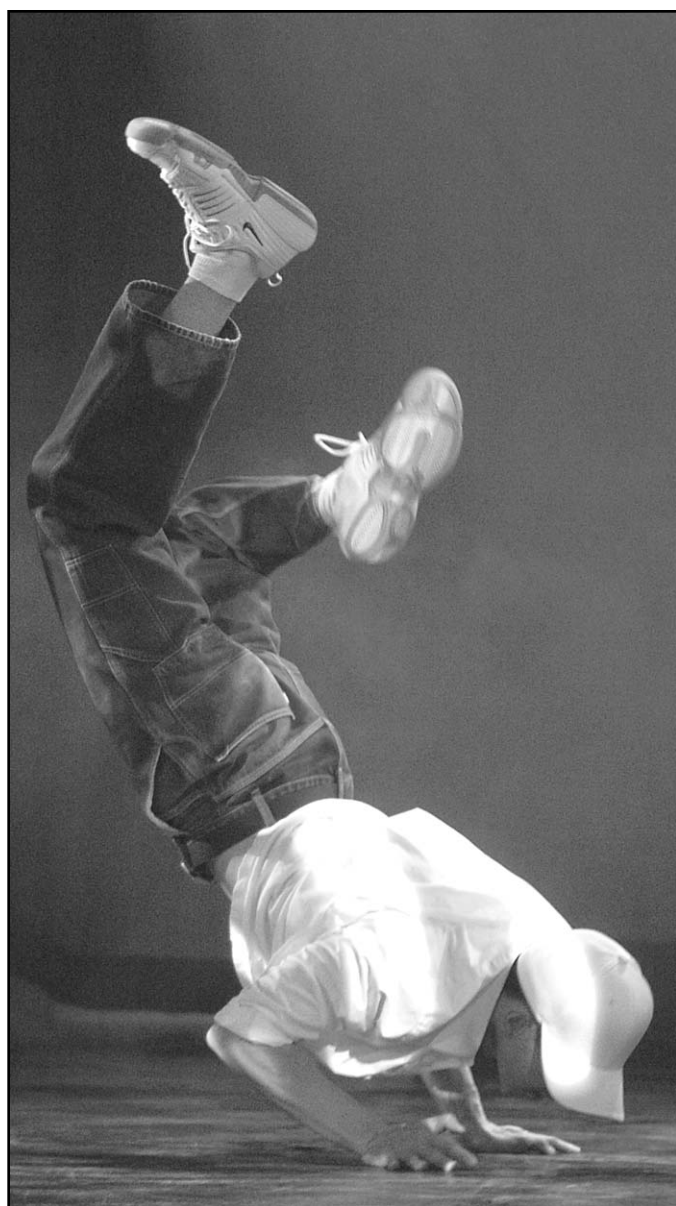


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Wednesday, May 11th
N42 Demo Center
5:15-6:45

5:15-6:45

Extension for W20 Considered

Student Center, from Page 1

sentation. Having a space for students to participate in hands-on building projects would “launch [MIT] so many light years ahead,” Slocum said.

The first floor would serve as student space, supporting student group meetings and events, and would possibly include a visitors’ center, small theater, or entrepreneurial center.

The second floor could be extended to Lobdell Food Court and would contain “open reconfigurable space,” according to the presentation.

The extension would make use of large amounts of glass, allowing natural light into the building, according to Slocum’s presentation. There would also be a sliding roof and greenhouse on the second floor.

The idea of the extension first came about last year, when Information Systems relocated from the basement of the Student Student to Building N42 on Massachusetts Avenue, and the Hobby Shop was offered the old space. After more

discussion, the idea of a new building was suggested, Slocum said. The ideas proposed so far incorporate some results of a study done on the Student Center in 2002, Walsh said.

Student input sought in design

Student ideas about the new building will be integral, Slocum said, and many students were involved in creating the initial plans. Slocum said he would like to hold a competition during the Independent Activities Period next January, when students could create plans for the Do-IT-Zone.

“This really needs to be student-driven,” he said, and “it would be great to start people thinking about it now.”

Walsh also said that another possible avenue for soliciting input would be to use the Association for Student Activities to facilitate feedback from student groups.

Funding source unknown

Funding for such a proposed extension is still a question mark. It will happen, but the timeline is uncertain, Slocum said, and funding will “depend upon how much

excitement we can generate” in drawing alumni donors. “In the end, money talks, planning walks,” he said.

Institutionally, there are “a lot of competing needs,” and funding capital projects is a “competitive process,” said Stephen D. Immerman, senior associate dean for student life.

There is a “long, long list of wonderful ideas that can’t necessarily be funded,” Immerman said. “These things take a great deal of time to think and plan.”

Reading room renovations ahead

On a shorter timescale, another part of the Student Center, the fifth floor reading room, is also being reevaluated, Walsh said.

Next week, CAC will hold a forum with students to discuss architect renderings for the reading room, in the hopes of having a schematic in the fall and a fully renovated reading room within two to three years.

The renovations would support both individual and group study, and such factors as acoustics and lighting will be considered, Walsh said.

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Thurs 12 May

5:30 pm

Room 56-614

For more information, contact:

Shawn Hillier, MITCSS Commissioner

MIT Rm. 56-686, x3-6207, hillier@mit.edu

OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

DON'T PANIC! — A smiling green planet appeared atop the Green Building last Friday morning, April 29, to celebrate the opening of the movie adaptation of Douglas Adams's "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy." It unfortunately did not withstand the strong winds for long.

Solution to KRT Crossword

from page 6

T	H	E	N		L	E	A	S	H		B	E	R	G
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N	A	V	E		E	M	C	E	E		D	I	E	M
S	L	E	D		R	E	A	D	S		E	A	R	S

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Tan Dun Water Concerto (1998)
Boston Premiere, written in memory of Toru Takemitsu

Toru Takemitsu
Requiem for Strings (1957); Three Film Scores (1994)
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Dear MedLink: If I need to cut corners on sleep somehow, which is better—taking several shorter naps during the day or getting however much sleep as I can at night? —**Sleepy@MIT**

Dear Sleepy: I know how you feel. Between juggling classes, a UROP, activities, work, and friends, it can seem nearly impossible to find time to sleep.

Still, according to MIT Medical psychologist, Xiaolu Hsi, Ph.D., following your body's circadian clock is the best way to feel rested and energized. Ideally, this means sleeping seven to eight continuous hours each night. However, if this isn't realistic for your lifestyle, you should definitely try to schedule quick naps throughout your day, not only to give you an energy boost but to also counter your "sleep debt," which, over time, could prove deleterious to your health.

Try to keep naps to between 20 and 30 minutes in length or longer than 90 minutes. The shorter naps will give your body just enough time to rest and recuperate before dropping off into the deeper stages of sleep, and 90 minutes will give you enough time to complete an entire sleep cycle. But remember that napping for two to four hours isn't an effective way to increase your productivity or alertness.

Ultimately, however, when it comes to catching up on sleep, each of us is unique, so there is no magic formula that works for everyone. It sometimes seems that sleep is expendable here at MIT, but the truth is that sleep deprivation may have many short- and long-term health effects. In addition to interfering with your ability to concentrate and weakening your immune system, insufficient sleep also interferes with your body's regulation of insulin production, which may increase one's risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. Moreover, lack of sleep also decreases production of the hormone leptin, which tells your body to stop eating when full, so people who regularly cut corners on sleep are more likely to be obese than those who get enough sleep.

If you continue to have questions about sleep, use the resources at MIT Medical to get answers. Discuss your concerns with your primary care physician or speak with a health educator in the Center for Health Promotion and Wellness (E23-205; 3-1316). Sweet dreams! —**Anu '07**



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SPORTS

At NEWMAC Championships, Track and Field Performs Well

By Alisha Schor
TEAM MEMBER

Students at MIT like numbers. Track and field athletes like numbers, too, because the numbers don't lie.

They are always there, for better or for worse, placing an athlete against past performances, either personal accomplishments or others' triumphs.

At last week's NEWMAC Women's Track and Field championships, the numbers told of MIT's best performance in school history. The Engineers scored a team-high 172 points, a mere 14.5 points behind perennial winner Wheaton College.

MIT athletes set 35 new personal records, in addition to two team-best relay performances. Sixteen athletes qualified for various post-season competitions, including Christine Fanchiang '07, who recorded an NCAA provisional mark of 10'11.75" in the pole vault despite the event's rain delay.

The second place team finish, a better result than most had projected, was the result of a collection of outstanding performances from every event area. Team depth was a key factor, with MIT scoring in all events and having multiple scorers in the majority of events.

"I was extremely impressed by how much of a 'team' this team has become," Elizabeth R. Walker '06

said. "There have been countless standout performances in a season dominated by rough weather, and people outperformed themselves once again this weekend. We have so much depth. It's hard to even compare us to the team we were last year."

A number of individual results stood out. The first event to finish featured a rookie record from Gwendolyn B. Johnson '08, who took second place in the 10-km in 39:19. Teammate Nancy J. Benedetti '05 dipped below the 40-minute mark as well (39:31) to take third.

Co-captain Julia C. Espel '05 was the only MIT athlete to score a victory, and she actually grabbed two, taking both the 3000-meter steeplechase and the 5000-meter. Alisa P. Lehman '05 ran well ahead of her seed in the 800-meter, recording a personal best of 2:26.01.

"All 16 [distance runners] had perfect or near perfect performances. We were looking for 90 points and got 91.75," distance coach Harold B. Hatch said.

Several multi-event athletes added to MIT's point total in the shorter races and field events. Co-captain Meredith N. Silberstein '05 competed in six events and scored in five of them. Leanne M. Veldhuis '08 performed well in a number of events as well, including a sub-60 second 400-meter as the anchor leg of a dramatic 4x400m relay in which MIT posted a

nearly eight-second improvement as a team.

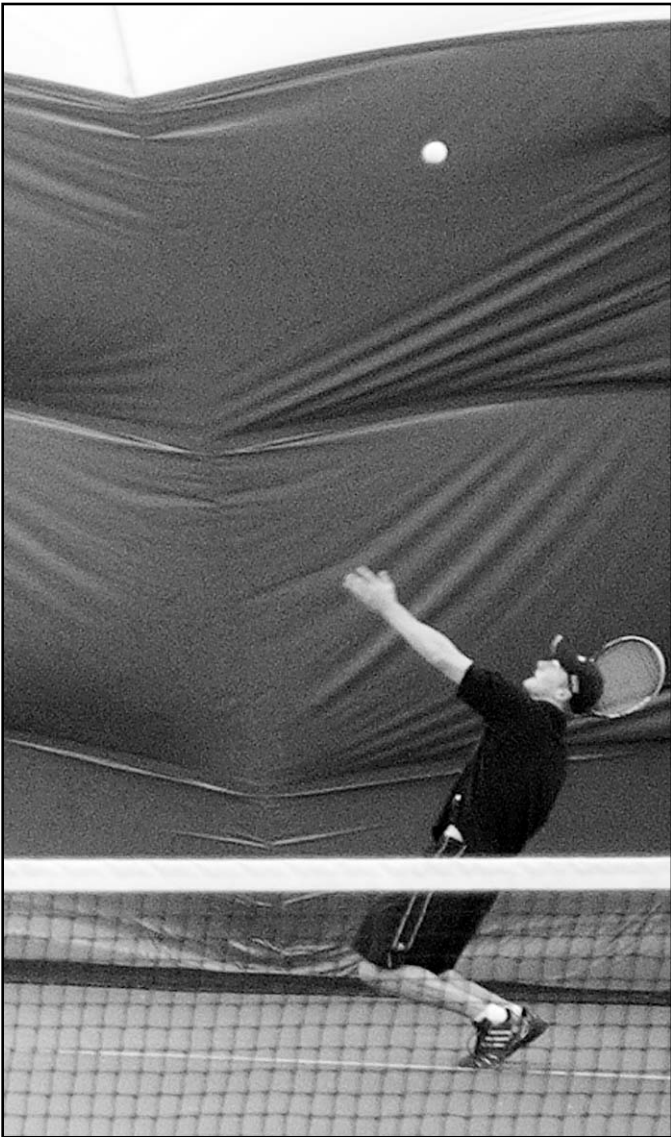
"One sight to see was Leanne battling it out with the Wheaton girl in the last leg of the 4x400. The fact that she broke 60, and that the team ran a 4:08, just shows how much improvement we have seen both by veterans and rookies," Walker said.

Events on the field were just as spectacular. Chi-Fong Wang '07 posted the first new varsity record of the season, throwing the javelin 121'10". Aline Thomas '07 threw a personal best of 35'11.25" in the shotput despite slippery conditions in the rain. Kay D. Furman '07 also improved, throwing the hammer 123' 7". Furman also managed to place against stiff competition in the discus.

"The cheering was great — the whole crowd of people standing in the mud at the discus ring," Kristen M. Burrall '08 said. "I think, more than other meets, people took the chance to really enjoy watching their teammates."

Head coach Paul Slovenski was honored as well for the tremendous success of MIT's athletes. Slovenski received the NEWMAC Coach of the Year award — a title that usually goes to the coach of the winning team by default — for putting forth such a well-prepared team.

Tomorrow Slovenski will be bringing an impressive 23 athletes to the New England Division III Championships, a meet which requires athletes to achieve certain qualifying standards. The Engineers will try to beat their highest-ever finish of seventh place.



CONNIE YEE—THE TECH

Thomas H. Dohlman '07 serves against Wheaton College last Saturday, April 30. MIT won the match 4-0 and claimed the NEWMAC championship title.

Barring Surprises, Bellamy Road Should Be Kentucky Derby Winner

By Yong-yi Zhu
COLUMNIST

The first Saturday in May can only mean one thing: a ton of gamblers are going to lose a lot of

Column money while a few will make a couple bucks. Everyone thinks their horse is the sure win at the Kentucky Derby, the ticket to making them rich. Fortunately, this year, there is such a sure thing to make everyone very well off.

Recent years have been filled with surprises. Point Given, and not Monarchos, was supposed to win the Derby four years ago. The last three winners — War Emblem, Funny Cide, and Smarty Jones — weren't exactly locks to conquer the Twin Spires.

Still, despite that trend, this year's pre-Derby Wood Memorial

managed to convince everyone that there is one horse to beat. And so, ever since then, everyone's eyes have been on George Steinbrenner's colt Bellamy Road. He will go into Saturday's run for the roses as the favorite, probably at about 5-2.

The horse went from being an unknown to the Derby front-runner in under two minutes — literally. He ran the Wood Memorial in a record 1:47.16 and won it by over 17 lengths. In fact, it didn't even seem like he was pushed very hard as he breezed past the finish line. It was an impressive enough performance to make him the Derby favorite.

Bellamy Road is a pace setter. In the Wood, he broke early to the inside and stayed there for the rest of the race. He was never really challenged by any other horse and really turned it on during the final turn to pull away.

There will be several challenges to Bellamy Road's run on Saturday. First of all, there are many legitimate pace setters in this field of twenty, including High Limit and High Fly, both of whom are potential winners. There is also Spanish Chestnut, a fast starter who could set the pace for Bandini (the two horses have a common owner). Spanish Chestnut has no real purpose but to be a rabbit. If those three set a hot pace early and get out in front along with Bellamy Road, they could disrupt him enough to throw him off track for the rest of the race. Bellamy Road has never been tested within a pack before, and that vulnerability may very well cause him to quit if he does not get a comfortable break at the outset.

Another problem is the fact that Bellamy Road has only had two tune-ups before the Derby. True, he trounced the field in the Wood Memorial and the Allowance, winning both by over 15 lengths. But he does not have the experience that the other horses do. He might not know

what it feels like to run in a variety of situations. And with the field as strong as it will be on Saturday, he will not be able to dodge everyone like he did in the Wood.

What are some of the other horses you should watch? Well, I've already mentioned High Fly and High Limit. But there are three more horses that are equally likely to win this race. Afleet Alex has been impressive. He is a decent closer, as he literally went from last to first during the Mountain Valley. He also mowed down the leaders in the Arkansas Derby.

Noble Causeway can close too. He closed in on his stablemate High Fly in the Florida Derby, but just ran out of real estate to overtake him. He might be a good pick at about 10-1, something with a bit more potential value than the other favorites.

Bandini is the other horse to really keep an eye on. If he and Spanish Chestnut are to pull off what they did in the Blue Grass Stakes, it will have to be a very strategized race.

So who's my bet for Saturday? I would still go with Bellamy Road. Even with all those challenges and the fact that he is betting low because of the favoritism, he might still be the most talented of the group. Besides, it's only a mile and a quarter and not the terribly long and grueling race that he might encounter at the Belmont. The race will most likely be decided in the first quarter mile.

Then again, if I could bet on Nick Zito, I wouldn't hesitate to do that either. He has three real contenders out there with Bellamy Road, High Fly, and Noble Causeway and two more with Sun King and Andromeda's Hero, and it would be a real surprise if he didn't get his third Derby win.

But I guess we should get used to surprises by now, if the last four years have been any warning.

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